AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for generating a wide-angle picture by overlapping three or more pictures captured at different visual points, each picture including a part of at least one other picture, a first picture captured from a first visual point and a second picture, including a part of the first picture, captured from a second visual point different from the first visual point so that said parts are overlapped, said the image processing apparatus is characterized by comprising:

an overlap detecting means of for detecting an overlap portion of the a first picture with and a the second picture within the wide-angle picture;

a comparing means of for comparing pixel values between pixels of the first and the second pictures in each of the overlap portions within the wide-angle picture; portion; and

a splicing means of for performing a splicing by shifting the overlap portions the overlap portion of the first picture with the second picture in correspondence with a result of based on the comparison by the comparing means;

a difference calculating means for calculating the absolute value of differences in pixel values, for each color component, between the first and second picture pixels identical in position on the wide-angle picture in each of the overlap portions,

wherein the comparing means compares the sum of the absolute values from all of the overlap portions with a first predetermined threshold.

2. (Canceled)

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3. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus ~~as cited in claim 2~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

a logarithm transformation means for ~~of~~ performing a logarithm transformation of the sum ~~absolute values of the differences in pixel values between the first and the second picture pixels identical in position on the wide-angle pictures in the overlap portion,~~

wherein the comparing means compares the logarithm transformation of the sum ~~pixel values between the pixels of the first and the second pictures in the overlap portion by comparing a value obtained by the logarithm transformation means through the logarithm transformation of the absolute values of the differences in pixel values between the first and the second picture pixels identical in position on the wide-angle pictures in the overlap portion~~ with a second predetermined threshold.

4. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus ~~as cited in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

a median detecting means ~~of~~ for calculating the median value, for each color component, ~~medians of~~ ~~within~~ the absolute values ~~of the differences in pixel values between the first and the second picture pixels identical in position on the wide-angle pictures~~ in the overlap portions ~~portion,~~

wherein the comparing means compares the sum of the median values ~~pixel values between the pixels of the first and the second pictures in the overlap portion by comparing the medians, detected by the median detecting means, within the absolute values of the differences in pixel values between the first and the second picture pixels~~

identical in position on the wide-angle pictures in the overlap portion with a <u>second</u>

<u>predetermined</u> prescribed threshold.

5. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus as cited in <u>according</u>

<u>to</u> claim 1, characterized by further comprising:

<u>an</u> edge extracting means <u>for</u> of extracting edges from the first and the second

pictures, <u>in the overlap portions; and</u>

<u>an edge difference comparing means for calculating the misalignment width of</u>

<u>the edges of the first and second pictures in each of the overlap portions,</u>

wherein the comparing means compares the <u>sum of the misalignment widths for</u>

<u>all of the overlap portions with a second predetermined threshold.</u> pixel values between

the pixels of the first and the second pictures in the overlap portion by comparing the

edges, extracted by the edge extracting means, of the first and the second pictures in

the overlap portion.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing method of an image processing

apparatus for generating a wide-angle picture by overlapping <u>three or more pictures</u>

<u>captured at different visual points, each picture including a part of at least one other</u>

<u>picture,</u> a first picture captured from a first visual point and a second picture, including a

part of the first picture, captured from a second visual point different from the first visual

point so that said parts are overlapped, said image processing method comprising:

a detection step of detecting an overlap portion of a first picture with <u>and</u> a

second picture within <u>the</u> wide-angle <u>picture</u> pictures;

a comparison step of comparing pixel values between pixels of the first and the

second pictures in <u>each of</u> the overlap <u>portions</u> portion <u>in the wide-angle picture;</u> and

a splicing step of performing a splicing by through a shifting of the overlap

portions based on the portion of the first picture with the second picture in

correspondence with a result of comparison obtained by a processing in the comparison

step;

calculating the absolute values of differences in pixel values, for each color

component, between the first and the second picture pixels identical in position on the

wide-angle picture in each of the overlap portions; and

comparing the sum of the absolute values from all of the overlap portions with a

predetermined threshold.

7. (Currently Amended) A recording medium storing characterized on which a

program is recorded in a computer readable form, wherein said the program causes

controls an image processing apparatus to execute a method for generating a wide-

angle picture by overlapping three or more pictures captured at different visual points,

each picture including a part of at least one other picture, a first picture captured from a

first visual point and a second picture, including a part of the first picture, captured from

a second visual point different from the first visual point so that said parts are

overlapped, said program the method comprising:

a detection step of detecting an overlap portion of a first picture with a second

picture within the wide-angle picture pictures;

a comparison step of comparing pixel values between pixels of the first and the

second pictures in each of the overlap portions portion in the wide-angle picture; and

a splicing step of performing a splicing by through a shifting of the overlap

portions based on the portion of the first picture with the second picture in

~~correspondence with a result of~~ comparison obtained by a processing in the comparison step:

<u>calculating the absolute values of differences in pixel values, for each color component, between the first and the second picture pixels identical in position on the wide-angle picture in each of the overlap portions; and</u>

<u>comparing the sum of the absolute values from all of the overlap portions with a predetermined threshold.</u>

8. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-readable media storing a</u> program <u>for causing a computer to execute a method</u> ~~characterized by executing computer which controls an image processing apparatus~~ for generating a wide-angle picture by overlapping <u>three or more pictures captured at different visual points, each picture including a part of at least one other picture, the method comprising</u> ~~a first picture captured from a first visual point and a second picture, including a part of the first picture, captured from a second visual point different from the first visual point so that said parts are overlapped, said computer executing~~:

~~a detection step of~~ detecting an overlap portion of a first picture with a second picture within <u>the</u> wide-angle <u>picture</u> ~~pictures~~;

~~a comparison step of~~ comparing pixel values between pixels of the first and the second pictures in <u>each of</u> the overlap <u>portions</u> ~~portion~~ in the wide-angle picture; ~~and~~

~~a splicing step of~~ performing a splicing <u>by</u> ~~through a~~ shifting ~~of~~ the overlap <u>portions</u> ~~portion of the first picture with the second picture in correspondence with a result of~~ <u>based on the</u> comparison obtained by a processing in the comparison step:

calculating the absolute value of differences in pixel values, for each color component, between the first and the second picture pixels identical in position on the wide-angle picture in each of the overlap portions;

calculating the median value, for each color component, of the absolute values;

and

comparing the sum of the median values with a predetermined threshold.